



**Director of
Central
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ISRAEL-LEBANON-SYRIA: Increasing Tensions

Israel is becoming increasingly concerned about the tactical situation in the Bekaa Valley, and it is taking precautions against a possible clash there. [redacted]

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Israeli military officers say they continue to receive reports they are unable to confirm that the Syrians are preparing for a limited offensive soon against Israeli forces in the Bekaa Valley. They claim the Syrians are reoccupying abandoned positions and conducting offensive exercises. Israeli Chief of Staff Levy also expressed concern last week about increased PLO infiltration through Syrian lines.

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Defense Minister Arens and former Chief of Staff Eitan warn that Israel has no intention of getting caught in a war of attrition in Lebanon. They say Damascus should have no illusions about a "limited war" remaining limited. [redacted]

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[redacted]
[redacted] Syrian forces fired again yesterday on an Israeli bulldozer erecting fortifications in the valley—the second such incident in as many days—but Israeli troops reportedly did not return fire. [redacted]

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Comment: Israeli warnings to Syria about PLO infiltration strongly suggest Tel Aviv is prepared to conduct strikes against Syrian positions if the Palestinians are not stopped. Although little information is available on this infiltration, the Israeli public is becoming restive over mounting Israeli casualties in clashes with PLO guerrillas. [redacted]

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The bulldozer incidents reflect the growing tension between Tel Aviv and Damascus as each prepares for possible military action. Although both sides probably want to avoid initiating a conflict, the possibility of a limited clash resulting from miscalculation is increasing. [redacted]

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JAPAN-ASEAN: Nakasone's Trip

Prime Minister Nakasone plans to use his visits to ASEAN countries, which begin tomorrow, to strengthen political relations in Southeast Asia and allay concerns there about Japan's defense buildup. []

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[] Nakasone will try to establish a close personal relationship with each of the five ASEAN leaders. By speaking candidly about Japanese defense policy, Nakasone hopes—particularly in the Philippines—to clear the air of suspicions and fears regarding Tokyo's intentions. The Prime Minister also will reaffirm support of ASEAN's policy on Kampuchea and try to lay the groundwork for a constructive dialogue on mutual political and security concerns, including events in Indochina and the growing Soviet military presence in Asia. []

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Japanese officials and media sources say Nakasone will offer only a limited increase in economic assistance. He also will propose an accelerated effort in technology transfer and improved access for ASEAN's exports of raw materials to Japan. He expects to encounter demands that the same be done for manufactured products. []

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Comment: No intractable issues lie in Nakasone's path, and he and his hosts are aware of their mutual interests. There is a remote possibility of anti-Japanese demonstrations, especially in Indonesia, and Tokyo is somewhat concerned about the unsettled political situation in Thailand. Nakasone's visits to both countries, however, are unlikely to encounter any serious disruptions. []

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EAST GERMANY-USSR: Concern Over Relations

Soviet representation at the recent Karl Marx Conference in East Berlin apparently has increased the concern of some East German leaders about their lack of contact with General Secretary Andropov.

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A member of an East German foreign policy institute says East German party officials were "somewhat disappointed" that a more prominent member of the Soviet leadership did not attend. He describes as "astounding" the seven-day delay by Politburo member Romanov, who headed the delegation, in meeting with East German leader Honecker.

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some East German party leaders are concerned about Andropov's pro forma treatment of relations with East Germany. They are worried about how little they know of Andropov's views on disarmament and economic policy— issues directly affecting East Germany.

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Comment: The East German officials may be overreacting to Soviet handling of the conference. The choice of Romanov to head the Soviet delegation probably reflected domestic political considerations, and the timing of Romanov's meeting with Honecker may not have been intended as a snub.

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SYRIA-LEBANON: Position on Troop Withdrawal

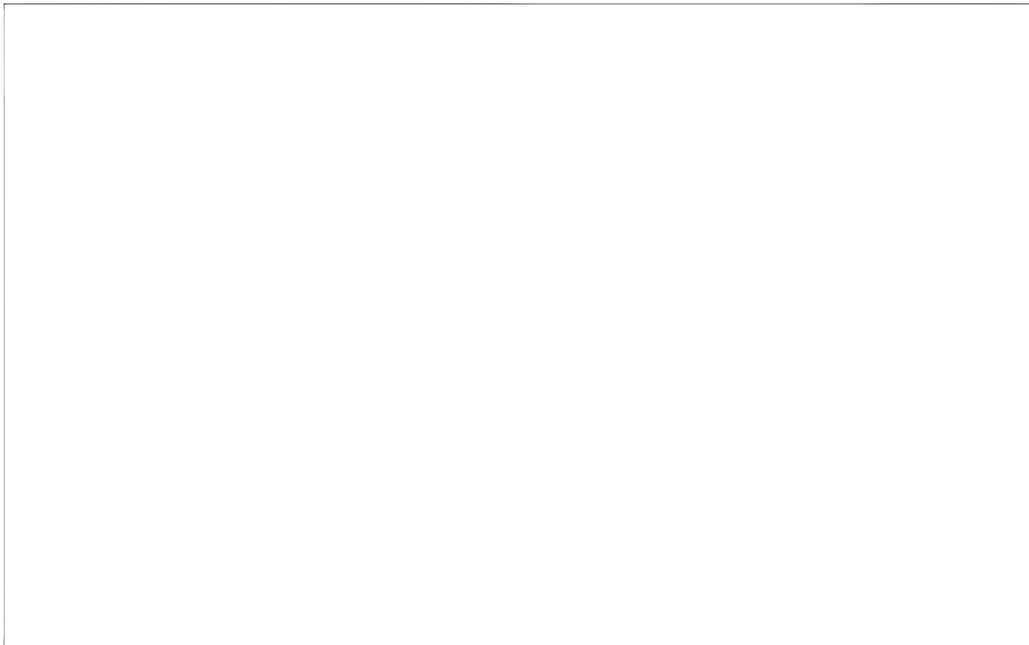
Syria, in an official statement given to the US Chargé on Tuesday, confirmed its intention to keep troops in Lebanon indefinitely if the Lebanese make substantial concessions to Israel in the withdrawal negotiations. The Syrians say they consider "any gains" realized by Israel from its invasion of Lebanon to be a danger to Syrian and Arab security, thereby obliging Syrian troops to remain. 

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Comment: The Syrian position has hardened in reaction to reported recent progress on an agreement that Damascus believes will include significant Lebanese concessions to Israeli security concerns. Syria has maintained throughout the Lebanese-Israeli talks that it will withdraw its troops only if a final agreement poses no threat to Lebanese sovereignty or Syrian security. This indicates, at a minimum, that Syria would oppose any role for Israeli-backed military leader Major Haddad or any Israeli presence in the security zone to be established in southern Lebanon. 

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USSR-US: Efforts To Influence Public Opinion

General Secretary Andropov's letter yesterday to American scientists and public personalities warning against the militarization of space is part of a campaign to appeal to groups in the US impatient with the slow pace of arms talks and with calls by the US Government for increased defense spending. The letter was foreshadowed by Andropov's proposal in an interview last weekend with the editors of the West German magazine *Der Spiegel* that US and Soviet scientists meet to consider the consequences of the creation of large-scale ABM systems. It supplements a recent declaration of 240 Soviet scientists condemning the US space-based ABM plan. []

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Comment: The campaign reflects an increasingly evident belief in Moscow that the best way to influence Washington now is indirectly, through "peace-loving" elements in the US. Politburo member Gorbachev's observation in a major speech last Friday that Western Europe's "more realistic tendency" has at last "met with a response" in the US indicates Andropov's current efforts have broad support in the leadership. The prominent treatment Soviet media are giving to Andropov's recent letters and interviews serve to put down rumors about his failing health and to reassure domestic audiences that he is an active leader. []

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POLAND-US: Protesting Radiobroadcasts

The Foreign Ministry yesterday protested to the US, calling for an end to broadcasts by Radio Free Europe and Voice of America, which Warsaw believes provoke unrest. In addition, a Foreign Ministry official demanded that the Embassy library stop extending services to Polish citizens. []

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Comment: The regime has long been frustrated by the role Western radio plays in providing information on planned antigovernment demonstrations. Warsaw's increased sensitivity at this time, however, stems from concern about the underground protests scheduled for Sunday and Tuesday. The authorities may consider jamming RFE and VOA again. The demand that the Embassy forbid Poles to use its library may in part reflect the regime's pique at the lack of progress toward improvement in bilateral relations. []

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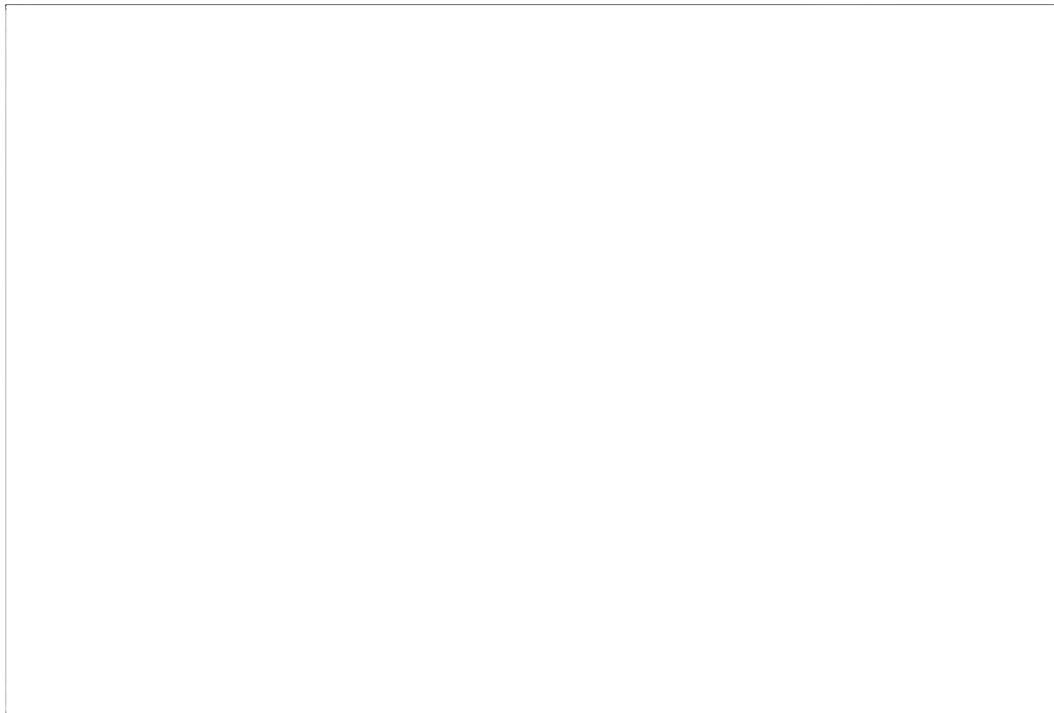
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**EAST GERMANY-WEST GERMANY: Incidents at the Border**

The US Embassy in East Berlin reports East Germany's threat on Monday to curtail West German access to West Berlin is primarily an attempt to influence West German domestic politics. The threat stemmed from hostile publicity in West Germany and protests by conservative politicians there over the death of a West German citizen at the East German border on 10 April. A second West German citizen died yesterday while going through border checks. Although Foreign Office sources in Bonn say the East Germans were forthcoming in this case and there is no evidence of foul play, they believe the incident may keep alive controversy over the first death.

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Comment: The warning on access probably is intended to undermine attempts by West German conservatives to push for a hardline policy toward East Germany. The tough East German treatment of border crossers also may reflect party leader Honecker's desire to please Moscow. The cooperative attitude of the East Germans in the second death indicates, however, that Honecker may be trying to calm the issue. He may be trying in part to salvage chances for a summit meeting with Chancellor Kohl this summer.

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ZIMBABWE: Treason Trial Ends

Six former military aides of opposition leader Nkomo remain in custody after being acquitted yesterday of charges of illegal possession of arms and, in one case, of treason. Their arrest in March 1982, following the discovery of arms caches belonging to Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union, led to a wave of violence. The release of the two top leaders was the objective of dissidents who last July kidnaped the two Americans and four other tourists. []

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Comment: The continued detention of the two leaders may cause troops that had belonged to ZAPU to desert. It also is likely to prompt another round of dissident violence in Matabeleland. []

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Ethnic Makeup of Bosnia and Hercegovina**Top Secret**

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YUGOSLAVIA-IRAN: Concern About Subversive Activity

Yugoslav leaders privately have told the US Embassy that 11 Bosnian Muslim Slavs arrested on 8 April after returning from Iran were involved in pan-Islamic activities on behalf of the Khomeini regime. Although Islamic literature confiscated by the Yugoslavs was not explicitly subversive, some of those arrested allegedly called for killing Serbs and expelling Bosnian Croats to Croatia. Interior Minister Dolanc recently speculated that Iran's aim is to create an independent Islamic state in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a Muslim toehold in Europe. Last November Belgrade objected to Iran's efforts to stir unrest among Muslims by propagating revolutionary Islamic fundamentalism. []

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Comment: The Yugoslav Government continues to worry that some Muslim Slavs—even though they are Sunnis—may be attracted to Ayatollah Khomeini's activism. Yugoslavia has close ties with Iran and other nonaligned Middle East states and does not plan to make a major issue of the incident. Nevertheless, Belgrade apparently expects relations with Tehran to cool. []

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PANAMA: New Constitution Approved

Early returns from the popular referendum held on Sunday indicate the changes to the constitution have been approved by a 9-to-1 margin. According to the US Embassy, voter turnout appeared to be slightly higher than predicted. No serious discrepancies in the balloting or incidents of violence have been reported. []

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Comment: National Guard Commander Paredes has been a leading supporter of the reform package, and the success of the referendum may relieve concern within the Guard's General Staff about his chances as a presidential candidate. Paredes is likely to resign later this year to begin his campaign. Approval of the new constitution clears the way for passage of the additional electoral laws that are needed before elections can be held. Among the most important will be the law establishing a date for the elections, which could be held as early as May 1984. []

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Special Analysis

USSR-MIDDLE EAST: Seeking Greater Influence

The Soviets are seeking to capitalize on their military support for Syria, including the deployment of the SA-5 missiles and provision of other arms, by intensifying efforts to increase their diplomatic influence throughout the Middle East. Since the missile deployments in January, Moscow has continued to cultivate Arab radicals, increased attempts to cultivate Arab moderates, and criticized the US Middle East peace initiative. Soviet media also have called Secretary of State Shultz's current trip to the Middle East a futile effort to rescue the US initiative. The Soviets may now try to use the opportunity presented by the stalemate in PLO-Jordanian discussions to revive their proposal for settling the Arab-Israel conflict.

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Soviet officials recently have held an increased number of meetings with various Arab leaders. In late March the head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near East Department, Oleg Grinevskiy, had meetings with PLO chief Arafat and Jordan's King Hussein before the two Arab leaders conferred about the US peace plan. Other recent contacts included the meeting of a Soviet Deputy Premier with Egypt's Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Premier Tikhonov's extensive meetings in Moscow with Libyan second in command Jallud.

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Moscow has tried to use these contacts to restore its credentials following its inactivity during fighting last summer in Lebanon and to translate its increased support for Syria into greater Soviet influence in the Arab world.

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The Peace Process

The USSR wants to prevent PLO-Jordanian agreement on the US peace initiative and to secure a Soviet role in any discussions of alternatives.

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Moscow also has been trying to suggest to Israel and the US that it would be a responsible participant in any peace dialogue. Foreign Minister Gromyko, in his press conference early this month, took a moderate tack on Israel. Moreover, leading Soviet Middle East experts have hinted to Westerners that an independent Palestinian state need not be established immediately and lamented the lack of US-Soviet talks on the Middle East.

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Role in Lebanon

The USSR has supported Syria's tough stand on troop withdrawals from Lebanon. Although Moscow presumably is concerned that it could become involved in a confrontation with the US as a result of a Syrian-Israeli clash in Lebanon, there is no evidence it is interested in arranging a settlement in Lebanon.

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Building Influence

The Soviets are working in other areas to increase their influence and to promote Arab unity. They are particularly eager to end Syria's isolation. [REDACTED]

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Moscow also has moved cautiously to exploit Libyan leader Qadhafi's effort to obtain greater Soviet support against an alleged US threat by agreeing in principle to sign a Friendship and Cooperation Treaty. The USSR, however, remains unwilling to provide Libya with the security commitments it desires. The language in the communique announcing the Treaty was restrained, and the Soviet media have paid little attention to the prospective accord. [REDACTED]

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In addition, the Soviets are trying to capitalize on the Egyptians' wish not to be too closely identified with the US and are urging President Mubarak to restore full diplomatic ties with the USSR. A Soviet Deputy Premier last month expressed Soviet willingness to resolve the most important bilateral issues, [REDACTED]

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Moscow realizes its proposal for settling the Arab-Israeli dispute is unlikely to be adopted soon, and it hopes to fashion a consensus of moderate and radical Arabs committed to an independent Palestinian state and Israeli withdrawal from all Arab land. Toward this end, the Soviets also may probe Saudi Arabia's willingness to increase contacts following Crown Prince Abdallah's assertion that he favored the establishment of ties with the USSR when the time was right. [REDACTED]

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